Missouri State Medical Association

House of Delegates

Resolution # 18

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Introduced by: Helen Gelhot, M.D.

Subject: Opposition to Mandatory Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

Referred to: Reference Committee

Whereas, physicians are among the nation's most rigorously trained professionals; and

Whereas, requirements for maintaining the skills needed to serve their patients vary greatly depending upon their patient population and chosen set of treatments offered; and

Whereas, no one is in a better position than the individual physician to determine how best to maintain those needed skills; and

Whereas, other professionals such as lawyers are not subjected to mandatory recertification requirements; and

Whereas, certification requirements are costly and time-intensive, requiring significant disruptions in availability of the physician for patient care; and

Whereas, there is no evidence that mandatory recertification results in any improvement in patient care; and

Whereas, there are significant conflicts of interest in agencies approved to set the requirements; and

Whereas, more than half of the highly qualified and respected faculty members of one of our best universities failed the mandated recertification examination, without any evidence that the problem was with the examinees rather than the examination; and

Whereas, constant externally imposed study requirements tend to enforce conformity rather than encourage the independence of thought essential for professionals; and

Whereas, mandatory recertification is likely to reduce access to care by encouraging retirement of great physicians who are providing excellent, much needed care taking
significant amounts of time away from patient care; and

Whereas, failure rates for MOC have been as high as 40.9% for one board; and

Whereas, mandatory recertification empowers government and disenfranchises patients and professionals; and

Whereas, there is currently no existing Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) policy calling for opposition to mandatory MOC; therefore be it

Resolved, That the MSMA opposes mandatory MOC, and encourages physicians to strive constantly to improve their care of patients by the means they find most effective; and be it further

Resolved, That the MSMA acknowledges that the certification requirements within the MOC process are costly, time intensive and result in significant disruptions to the availability of physicians for patient care; and be it further

Resolved, That MSMA acknowledges and affirms the professionalism of individual physicians to self-determine the best means and methods for maintenance of their knowledge and skills; and be it further

Resolved, That MSMA communicate to the American Medical Association (AMA) and American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) examples of disproportional fees and onerous time requirements and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the AMA House of Delegates for its consideration.